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RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 127
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 86
BT
UNCLAS (LA PAZ 6863)

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: ALTMANN/BARBIE CASE

REF: LA PAZ 5657

1. CONSIDERATION OF ALTMANN/BARBIE EXTRADITION CASE HAS BEEN FURTHER DELAYED AS LA PAZ DISTRICT COURT RETURNED CASE DOCUMENTS TO BOLIVIAN SUPREME COURT WITHOUT HAVING LEGALLY DETERMINED WHETHER ALTMANN IS BARBIE. LA PAZ COURT HAD BEEN GIVEN 100 DAYS IN WHICH TO EVALUATE DOCUMENTS AND "ESTABLISH IDENTITY OF ALTMANN". IDENTIFICATION WAS NOT ACCOMPLISHED BECAUSE THE COURT "DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PAY FOR TRANSLATION OF APPROXIMATELY 800 PAGES OF DOCUMENTS". DURING THE PAST MONTH THE DISTRICT COURT REPEATEDLY PUBLICIZED THE SITUATION, AND NOTED THAT IT HAD REQUESTED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO OBTAIN FUNDS FOR TRANSLATIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONDED THAT IT HAD NO OBLIGATION IN THE CASE AND THAT FUNDS WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING.

2. COMMENT: AS AN INFERIOR COURT DETERMINATION OF IDENTIFICATION MUST BE MADE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT CAN ACT ON AN EXTRADITION CASE, IT APPEARS THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE FRENCH EXTRADITION REQUEST WILL BE HELD INHIBITANCE FOR AN UNDETERMINED PERIOD. SIRACUSA

BT

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